



MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 13 JULY 2026 AT 7.15pm
AT ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE

Present: Parish Councillors: John Roberts (Chairman), Lesley Bowditch, Kevin Ferriday, Becky Hannam, Margaret Hogg

In Attendance: Caro Slaymaker (Parish Clerk), four members of the public

6540 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Falla and Jeanes for reasons given. Their absences were **approved**.

6541 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Bowditch declared an interest in agenda item 7a (Grant to NS Art Group).

6542 Public Session

A member of the public raised the issue of the overgrown vegetation at the bus shelter at Stogursey Lane. The Clerk would contact the contractor for work to be done.

A representative of the Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground thanked the Parish Council for the grant awarded for Party in the Park. She said that it had been a great day, with no incidents and no complaints, and everyone had left quietly at around 11pm. The Playing Field had raised £700, the school had not yet confirmed how much they had raised.

6543 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 8 June were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6544 Somerset Council Liaison

No Councillors were present.

6545 Licencing Application

a) Chalk Up, Unit 1, Budley Farm Nether Stowey

Proposal: sale of alcohol, Monday-Sunday 10:00-23:00

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council had no objection, but that reference should be made to the access arrangements, a condition of the planning consent, in the interests of road safety.

Cllr Bowditch declared an interest in the following item (Nether Stowey Art Group), and took no part in the discussion or vote. Standing Orders were temporarily suspended to allow the representative of the Art Group to present their application.

6546 Grant Applications

a) It was agreed to award a grant of £50 to Nether Stowey Art Group as a contribution to prizes for the children's art competition (all in favour).



Grant Applications (continued)

- a) It was **agreed** to donate £99 to Life Education Wessex as a contribution to the costs of health and well-being workshops to be held at the school on 28 September (all in favour).

6547 Financial Management

- a) The Budget and Reserves Report for the year to 9 July was noted. A copy of the detailed report is available from the Parish Office on request.
- b) Expenditure incurred since 8 June. The expenditure was **approved** and any two of the authorised signatories were instructed to sign the relevant cheques/authorise online payments (proposed Cllr Hannam, seconded Cllr Hogg). The expenditure list is appended to these minutes.
- c) The bank reconciliations were noted. Cllr Hogg had carried out the spot check on 10 July and was satisfied all was in order.
- d) The purchase of new road cones was **approved**. It was agreed that the grit bin was not now required.

6548 Dog Waste Bin

It was **agreed** to supply a dog waste bin at Wilsons Close.

6549 Cemetery Parking sign

It was **agreed** that, since this was the first complaint since the junction was modified five years, a sign was not worth the cost.

6550 Highways

St Mary Street had been briefly closed for road repairs. Mystifyingly they had patched one big area of damaged surface and one tiny one, but left several other adjacent patches that were marked out. The Clerk raised this at the Highways meeting on 30 June. A few days later they re-marked more of the damaged areas and it is assumed they will return to complete the repairs.

The Clerk had started the process of obtaining the Highways licence for the new bollards.

Double yellow lines (Castle Street) and pedestrian crossing signs (A39) are still outstanding.

Overgrown bushes on the paths around Coleridge Road had been reported, as they have powers of enforcement.

Highways confirmed that they would carry out work on the big oaks on the footpath at the back of the medical centre. They are writing to residents in the area who have overgrown vegetation affecting the paths.

6551 Chairmans Report

The Chairman had attended the Dowsborough LCN AGM in his capacity as a Director of SALC. Only three parishes had sent representatives and only one Somerset Councillor was present. The meeting was thus inquorate. There was an interesting presentation on forestry and the Quantock Hills National Landscape.

6552 Clerk's Report

No interest/applications from would-be Councillors in response to the vacancy ad for our vacancies.

Members were reminded that following a change of legislation (Localism Act 2011, S 32A), Councillors' home addresses should not be published unless a member explicitly requested it. The Clerk had amended contact lists and the website.

The green space and play area at Cricketer Drive/Church View was currently being constructed/landscaped. The area was fenced off, preventing access to the bin and notice board.

6553 Members Reports

NSRG & VH Committee – The next events were the Flower Show on 15 August and there would be a dog show in September. They had canvassed people at Party in the Park and received useful feedback on the play area and Millennium Wood.

NSRG & VH CIO – Cllr Jeanes had sent a written report that the CIO had now commented on new drawings and these were now being updated. The consultant was chasing up others to update reports for the new plan.

Hinkley Point – Cllr Roberts had attended the HPC Transport forum meeting. The workforce seemed to have now plateaued and they were discussing additional mitigation and funding. Existing mitigation schemes would continue. There were about 1,200 bus movements every day, and there was a full-time maintenance/servicing crew. Construction is now 98% complete and they were on course to be up and running in 2030.

Quantock Hills NL JAC – the next meeting was on 22 July, but Cllr Falla was unlikely to be able to attend.

Thomas Poole Library – Cllr Ferriday had not attended the last meeting.

Stowey Green Spaces Group – Cllr Ferriday reported that SGSG had been nominated for another award. They have Highways agreement to survey land on the A39 verge, in preparation for designing the new project.

6554 Forthcoming Events

The Parish Office would be closed from 20-31 July and 7-21 August for staff leave. It would also be closed on 31 August for the public holiday.

Wed 15 July – Somerset Clerks Forum (CS)

Wed 22 July – CiLCA, Wells (CS)
– QHNL JAC meeting (representative tbc)

Wed 19 Aug – CiLCA, Wells (CS)

6555 Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Meeting would be held on **Monday 14 September** at the Church Centre at 7pm unless urgent Council business required a meeting on Monday 10 August.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Minute 6533b – Expenditure incurred since 12 May

The expenditure was approved and any two of the authorised signatories were instructed to sign the relevant cheques/authorise online payments (proposed Cllr Hogg, seconded Cllr Ferriday).

Date	Payee Name	Amount	Transaction Details
11 June	Water2 Business	98.27	Office water Nov 25-June 26
11 June	Water2 Business	417.67	Public Toilets water Nov 25-June 26
11 June	Santander Bank	0.70	Account 3 bank charges (May transactions)
15 June	Microsoft	4.79	Microsoft OneDrive (June)
16 June	Morrisons	5.70	Rubbish bags (street cleaning)
17 June	NS VH + RG	450.00	Grant for DJ (Party in the Park) min no 6532
20 June	Staff Payroll	2,592.32	Staff Payroll (June)
25 June	BT Business	63.54	Office phone/broadband (bill 25 June)
30 June	C Slaymaker	31.03	Travel/parking costs CiLCA 22 June
30 June	Sam's Little Sparkle	80.00	Village cleaning (June)
3 July	EdF Energy	77.41	Public toilets electricity (July)
3 July	EdF Energy	250.69	Office electricity (July)
3 July	EdF Energy	13.86	Clock Tower electricity (July)
6 July	Argos	80.00	Vacuum cleaner for office
6 July	Sainsburys	8.00	Loo rolls, batteries
15 July	Somerset Council	80.00	Office rates (July)
15 July	Somerset Council	55.00	Cemetery rates (July)
15 July	Risdons Solicitors	350.00	Office rent 15 July
20 July	SLCC	495.00	CiLCA registration fee
31 July	Unity Trust Bank	7.00	Bank charges (June transactions)
Total Expenditure		£ 5,160.98	

NOTE: A detailed budget report is no longer appended to minutes, but is available from the Parish Office on request. Please contact the Clerk at clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01278 733779 or call at the office.